

**Wellesley Public Schools  
School Committee Meeting  
June 6, 2023  
6:30 PM  
Remote Online Meeting**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Those present included Chair Leda Eizenberg, Vice Chair Linda Chow, Secretary Craig Mack, members Christina Horner and Catherine Mirick; Superintendent David Lussier, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Sandy Trach, Director of Student Services Kat Bernklow, Student representative Sophia Dobado and Ivy Wang.

Ms. Eizenberg announced that the meeting is being held remotely and recorded by local media and broadcast live by Wellesley Media.

**Public Comments**

*John Maccini, 5 Highland Road*

A resident who lives in close proximity to the Sprague Pickleball Courts and the noise is affecting his health and lifestyle in his home. A petition was submitted by Mr. Maccini and several other residents to the Recreation Department to remove and/or relocate the courts in non residential areas.

*Kennar Juliani, 9 Sylvester Terrace*

A supporter of pickleball and really enjoys the sport. When playing pickleball it is a positive experience, plus it is a bonus to cheer on the tennis teams when they play there.

*Kerry Sullivan, 21 Leewood Road*

The noise of pickleball is a potential health hazard and asks the committee to reconsider relocating courts to non residential areas.

*Christopher Garris, 11A Oak Street*

Would like the consideration of the committee to remove and relocate the Sprague Pickleball Courts.

*John Smitka, 4 Highland Road*

Asking the committee to hear the concerns of the residents who are property owners concerning pickleball.

**Reports**

**School Committee**

Catherine Mirick shares the details of the Climate Action Committee's recent retreat. The committee focuses on the school's energy conservation and the inclusion of climate action reports from all town departments in the annual town report.

The new Hardy building construction is continuing to take shape, footings are poured and placed. The temporary path from Lawrence and Hardy roads will be closed this summer and Hardy Road will be closed with only access for residents of Hardy Road.

Hunnewell is in the process of the advanced stages of completion with interior and exterior.

Craig Mack congratulated the Class of 2023 on their commencement on Friday, June 2, 2023.

Ms. Eizenberg will be attending the last meeting for the Central Council on Wednesday, she thanks all of the PTOs and PTSO hard work and dedication all year long.

### **Superintendent**

High School commencement was a huge success, a round of applause to Dr. Chisum and his team who changed the schedule in the hour of the event with hopes the weather would hold off long enough for the entire ceremony to take place.

Last day of students is next week, Thursday, June 15th, that is an early release day and Wednesday, June 14th is a FULL day. Staff's last day is Friday, June 16th.

Hardy students participated in Day of Play. This event involved students designing and building objects using everyday materials such as cardboard, shoeboxes, duct tape, masking tape, and recycled materials (plastic, metal). In addition to promoting the STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, this event allowed for fantastic opportunities for creativity and innovation. Kudos to the Hardy teachers for planning this event for their students and to the Hardy parents who supported through donations of materials.

Sunday was the 30th annual Schofield 5K Road Race, Kids' Fun Run and Fun Fair. Despite the drizzly weather, there were 450 runners registered and many families there to cheer them on as they crossed the finish line. The Fun Fair followed with all sorts of games, concessions and an ice cream truck. This wonderful community event would not have been possible without the help of over 100 volunteers! Thank you Schofield PTO!

Representatives from WPS, including Christina Horner, Sandy Trach, Hannah Tolla, Karsten Cash, Dedra Moore, Brandon Cox, Nile Fox, Vanesa Morales, and Jorge Allen, attended the annual Living the Legacy of METCO conference. Keynote speakers included Dr. Deirdre Williams, Chief Bridge Builder at U-Bridge Consulting Group, and Dr. Christopher Emdin, a Professor of Education at the University of Southern California and Endowed Chair in Curriculum Theory.

Starting on Monday, November 21, 2022 we launched the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the preschool. Between the start of the program at the end of November to now, 110 preschoolers and their families have read 8,910 books! There were 891 book bags, each filled with 10 books each. Our preschoolers have had the opportunity to read about a wide range of genres, characters, settings, and learn new vocabulary while nurturing a love of reading with their family members who read to and with them! Thank you to our families for partnering with us to read to your children and build a foundational love of literature and learning.

We extend a huge thank you to approximately 40 phenomenal Wellesley High School students who over the course of several months volunteered their time on Monday and Wednesday afternoons after school to:

- help us check in each book bag,
- check to ensure all 10 books were returned in each bag,
- catalog any missing books,
- track the book bags that each child read and then,
- assign and tag a new book bag for each child to take home.

These wonderful high school students, working independently and sometimes in small groups, logged just under 150 volunteer hours to help support the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program at PAWS! We are grateful for their wonderful support in helping us to bring a wide variety of books to our preschool families this year! We look forward to continuing the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program at PAWS in September and look forward to partnering with students from the high school again!

### **Students**

Ivy Wang gives a special shout out to the 8th and 5th grade students who are moving forward to new schools in the fall. Ms. Wang also reports that the Hale Reservation trip for grade 5 was a huge success.

### **Consent Agenda**

Camp Caribou WHS Football Camp Trip - August 2023

Surplus Items, Gifts and Donations

April 10, 2023 Minutes - *as amended*

Motion to Accept Consent Agenda - Eizenberg

Moved - Mack

Seconded - Mirick

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow -Y and Eizenberg - Y

**Motion Carried: 5-0**

### **Action/Discussion**

*WHS Assessment Reports*

Dr. Hannah Tolla presents the Wellesley High School Annual Assessment Results, this overview covers the following postsecondary outcomes with demographics of the WHS Class of 2022 including participation demographics, enrollment and an overview of scores for the following exams: PSAT, SAT, ACT, AP (Advanced Placement).

Next steps include: Relationship mapping to ensure all students are connected to a trusted adult in the building. District data team to guide instruction and programmatic decision-making.

DESE Summer Instructional Leadership Institute application supporting team's abilities to advance equitable student outcomes. 6-12 Course Review to examine vertical alignment of course pathways to support student success.

See full report [here](#)

#### *Strategic Plan Discussion*

Dr. Lussier reports and leads the discussion on the Strategic Plan of Wellesley Public Schools's mission is to provide a high-quality and equitable education supporting each student's academic, social, and emotional development. WPS prepares its students to be college, career, and life ready, and empowers them to contribute locally and globally.

See full report [here..](#)

#### *Recreation Commission Pickleball Proposals*

Ansley Martin from the Recreation Commission, Matt Chin, Recreation Department, John Brown, Athletic Director, Joanne Grant K-12 Fitness and Health Director collectively discuss the different proposals and support of pickleball.

Pickleball at Sprague, Perrin, and Schofield has been very popular, and there is a group of players who really feel it has helped them grow and build a healthy community post-pandemic. However, there is a group of neighbors, primarily around the Sprague courts, who are tremendously bothered by the noise of the pickleball, primarily because of the pitch of the sound of the hard plastic ball hitting the hard paddles.

Ms. Chow shared the proposal document and the group went through each item one by one.

The Recreation Commission had several public hearings, investigated the state of the art of sound mitigation options, and talked to a lot of experts and community members. Please see the full [summary of proposals here..](#)

Ms. Mirick takes over further discussion to identify the concerns of the School Committee's needs and responsibilities to address the impact of residents directly affected by the pickleball courts at Sprague Field. [See discussion outline here..](#)

The committee will need to act on the Recreation Commission recommendations on their meeting on June 20, 2023.

#### *Hunnewell Track and Field Phase II*

Ms. Chow covers the key updates for the second phase of the Hunnewell Track and Field Project. The second phase is broken down into two different phases, Phase II A - Bathrooms, concession stands, lighting and sound and Phase II B - Team Room. Requests for the committee to (\* vote) to hire a legal environment council to further support the project based on specific knowledge. The funding for this service will be coming from the field fund.

See [full report here](#).

*\* The SC voted on April 10, 2023 to hire legal counsel however this was not properly posted on the agenda for the meeting. To formally have an official vote, the committee will retake the vote this evening.*

Ms. Horner commented that the process of the hiring was inequitable by the district to not offer this opportunity to other marginalized groups. Ms. Eisenberg appreciated the comments and assured that this will be taken into consideration moving forward.

**Motion: The School Committee hire Barry Fogel as an environmental attorney using money from the field fund**

Moved - Chow

Seconded - Mirick

Roll Call - Horner - N, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow - Y and Eisenberg - Y

**Motion Carried: 4-1**

#### *Enrollment Update*

A short overview by Dr. Lussier and Cynthia Mahr on the current enrollment status of the district projected for the next school year [see full report here](#).

Total enrollment in October 2022 was higher than current enrollment by 156 students. The data is through May 31, 2023. FutureThink projections for SY '23-24 is a total enrollment of 4,072.

School and grade levels where enrollment is nearing the high end of our class size guidelines and where reassignments could take place in the near future:

Kindergarten: Upham

Grade 1: Bates, Upham

Grade 2: Sprague

Grade 3: Upham

Grade 4: Upham

Grade 5: Bates

Additional sections being watched:

Grade 5: Upham, Schofield

The Elementary Transfer Option (ETO) is the renamed Open Enrollment process. 34 applications were received by the May 1st deadline. 33 of 34 applications have been accommodated; 1 remains and will be reviewed if they complete the registration process by June 30th. Letters were sent out on June 2nd; families have until June 9th to accept the placement offered.

All of this information is on the website.

Kindergarten: 14 Students  
Grade 1: 8 Students  
Grade 2: 2 Students  
Grade 3: 6 Students  
Grade 4: 1 Student  
Grade 5: 3 Students

*Hardy Liaison Vote*

For each of the school projects there is a liaison and a back up liaison. Leda Eisenberg will be the new back up liaison replacing Melissa Martin.

**Motion: To appoint Leda Eisenberg as the liaison of the Hardy Elementary Project and the back up liaison to the Hunnewell Elementary Project**

Moved - Mack

SECOND - Chow

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow -Y and Eizenberg - Y

**Motion Carried - 5-0**

***Motion made by Ms. Eizenberg to enter into Executive Session Under G.L. c. 30A, §21A, exemption #3 Collective bargaining strategy discussion re: WEA request that technology department positions be voluntarily recognized as represented by the WEA as part of Unit D bargaining unit; and exemption #2 strategy with respect to non-union salaries.***

**Members invited**

David Lussier, Superintendent of Schools  
Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations  
Sandy Trach, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning  
Monica Visco, Director of Human Resources  
Kat Bernklow, Director of Student Services  
Jim Pender and Rick Gello, Labor Counsel  
Megan Bounit, Director of Technology

**MOTION TO ADJOURN - Eizenberg**

Moved - Chow

SECOND - Mirick

Roll Call - Horner - Y, Mack - Y, Mirick - Y, Chow -Y and Eizenberg - Y

Motion 5-0

Adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Mack, Secretary

**Documents and Exhibits Used:**

Field Trip Approval - Camp Caribou

Surplus Items May and June 2023

WHS Assessment Results

WPS Strategic Plan Template

Summary of Recreation Commission Proposal for Pickleball

Discussion of Recreation Commission's Proposal for Pickleball

Update on Hunnewell Track and Field

FY24 Enrollment Initial Review